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Identical letters dated 1 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to refer to the repeated negative statements concerning current events in Syria that have been made to the press by the President of the General Assembly. Those statements do not befit the role or the mandate of a President of that body, who ought to abide by the Charter of the United Nations and be impartial and objective, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which state: "The satisfactory progress of the proceedings depends essentially on [the] competence, authority, tact and impartiality [of the President of the General Assembly], [his] respect for the rights both of minorities as well as majorities, and [his] familiarity with the rules of procedure." On that basis, Member States must presume that the President of the Assembly will not be influenced by the political positions of his country, because he was elected as the President of all members of the General Assembly, not to use his position to advance the political stances of his country. The statements against Syria that have been made by the President of the Assembly have been characterized by ever-increasing stridency, and he has used language that is completely at odds with his position as a conciliator and his good offices. He has adopted methods that exceed the boundaries of his mandate, thereby aligning himself with the position of certain States that are declaring themselves to be enemies of Syria, while ignoring the position of other States that are not in favour of intervening in the internal affairs of Syria and stress the need for dialogue, the preservation of the stability of Syria and the realization of its people's interests.

Set forth below are a number of points that illustrate what we have mentioned above. The statements that have been made by the President of the General Assembly and his convulsive stance towards the country raise many queries as to his impartiality and personal objectivity.

1. The President of the General Assembly conspicuously breached normal practice and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 65/281, entitled "Review of the Human Rights Council", when he convened on 13 February 2012 a plenary meeting of the Assembly to discuss agenda item 64, entitled "Report of the Human Rights Council", regardless of the fact that, at the time, we drew the attention of the President and the States members of the Assembly to that infringement. We therefore advised the President of the Assembly to take independent legal advice in order to avoid creating a dangerous precedent that

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would later pave the way for other procedural violations and breaches of the provisions of Assembly resolutions. Unfortunately, however, he refused to do so and persisted in his violations, thus incurring the censure of many Member State delegations and creating a negative precedent which will be registered in the annals of the Assembly and reverberate for a long time.

2. The United Nations is an international organization of Governments that comprises Member States, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, Articles 3 and 4, and it must therefore take into consideration the official positions of States on the issues that concern them. It is thus unacceptable for the President of the General Assembly to ignore, in his statements and positions, all the information with which he has been provided by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, a founding Member of the United Nations, by means of a number of letters that have been issued as official United Nations documents. Those letters contained documented facts and conveyed a truthful picture of what is taking place in Syria, with respect to both the set of comprehensive reforms and the terrorist acts being carried out by the armed groups that are receiving financial, political, media and logistical support from foreign parties, including Qatar.

3. The position of the President of the General Assembly is one of the highest positions in the United Nations, and the incumbent must be impartial and completely independent of the political positions of his country. His job is to promote dialogue and to bring about peaceful solutions to various problems. It was therefore to be expected that the President of the Assembly, who chose the theme of mediation and affirmed the importance of dialogue, should distance himself from the official, open calls made by the Prime Minister of his country, Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim Al-Thani, for the Syrian opposition to be provided with arms and for direct military intervention in Syria. Such calls bring to mind the crimes and massacres that took place in Libya and Iraq, which led, in the end, to widespread destruction, violence, anarchy and terrorism, and fomented civil war.

4. With no authority from Member States, the President of the General Assembly has on more than one occasion, most recently on 24 February 2012, expressed his support for and welcomed the convening of the so-called "Friends of Syria" conference in a manner that constitutes blatant prejudice and support for the position of certain United Nations Member States rather than those others who refused to take part in that conference. More than two thirds of Member States did not attend, believing that its aim was to intervene in the affairs of a sovereign State and to provide coverage and support for the armed terrorist groups while ostensibly supporting the opposition, which is a clear violation of the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The President of the Assembly was supposed to act in support of the role and position of the United Nations, not to demolish and circumvent that role by encouraging initiatives that did not come within the United Nations framework and supporting the convening of conferences that issue resolutions and statements that conflict with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Everyone is aware that the President of the Assembly chose as the theme for the high-level debate at the opening of the sixty-sixth session "The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes by peaceful means", and that he undertook to strengthen the role of mediation through the United Nations. However, his support for and the welcome that he extended to the Tunis conference, to which Syria, the State most directly concerned, was not invited,

completely contradicts the theme which he himself chose and empties it of all meaning.

5. The statements made by the President of the General Assembly have shamefully disregarded the truth as to what is happening in Syria. None of those statements have made any reference to any of the genuine reforms that are taking place in Syria, which culminated in the adoption of a new national Constitution by direct popular plebiscite that was concluded on 26 February 2012. That Constitution provides for the establishment of the modern Syrian democratic State, which will be based on the rule of law, the equality of all citizens and political and economic pluralism; protect general freedoms; and exercise authority democratically through the ballot box, all of which matters were legitimate demands of wide sectors of the Syrian people, and those demands have been met. Furthermore, none of the statements of the President of the Assembly have made any reference to the actions of the armed terrorist groups which have carried out terrorist attacks on public and private institutions in the State and against Syrian civilians and soldiers, as confirmed by the report of the League of Arab States Observer Mission to Syria (see S/2012/71).

In conclusion, we stress that such unjustified statements disregard the aspirations of the Syrian people to reform, stability, security and prosperity, and their rejection of any type of foreign intervention. Those statements do not help the United Nations in any way to carry out its role and lofty mission to maintain international peace and security, which is far from threats, the imposition of foreign dictates and intervention in the internal affairs of States. They increase the probability of tension and violence and send the wrong message to the armed terrorist groups and their sponsors, to the effect that they may carry on with their attacks against the State and people of Syria.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative